

Attachment 4.8(b)(1)

Cooperation with Agencies That Are Not in the Statewide Workforce System and with Other Entities

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) has the following types of interagency cooperation and agreements with agencies and programs that are not carrying out activities through the statewide workforce investment system. The number of agencies and programs are included with each type.

Agreement for Transition Specialist:

Number of agencies or programs: 15

Description: Provides for the implementation of a Transition Specialist in the school district to provide transition services to individual students as appropriate for each student.

Agreement of Cooperation for Transition Services:

Number of agencies or programs: 150

Description: District level vocational rehabilitation (VR) offices and local education districts work together in maintaining local agreements between each VR district office and the local school districts as to how to carry out transition services. These agreements have no specified financial agreement other than the implied cost for serving students with disabilities.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment:

Number of agencies or programs: 19

Description: The agency has written agreements (contracts) with agencies (both private and public, mental health affiliated programs) to assist with the cost of residential secondary treatment for VR consumers whose functional limitations due to alcohol and/or drug problems are severe enough to constitute a substantial impediment to employment.

Community Rehabilitation Programs:

Number of agencies or programs: 5

Description: Provides for work evaluation and job readiness training, including discovery and customized employment services, for VR clients at private non-profit community rehabilitation programs.

Assistive Technology Evaluations:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: Provides for evaluations pertaining to assistive technology, primarily related to seating, positioning and mobility; adaptive driving, including bioptic driving; vehicle modification; and, augmentative and alternative communication.

Staff Training:

Number of agencies or programs: 3

Description: Provides for training of MDRS staff in the areas of Human Resources, Disability Sensitivity and Etiquette, and VR/Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind (VRB) orientation and casework.

Medical Consultants:

Number of agencies or programs: 4

Description: MDRS contracts with state medical, ophthalmological, and dental professionals to provide review of applicants' medical documentation for VR/VRB clients. In addition, local districts also have medical consultants for VR clients. The Addie McBryde Center for the Blind contracts with medical professionals to provide psychiatric evaluations and medical evaluations for VRB clients.

Building, Maintenance and Support Services:

Number of agencies or programs: 6

Description: Contracts provide for elevator maintenance, janitorial services, guard services, meals for clients, and substitute dorm supervisors at the Addie McBryde Center for the Blind.

Financial Audit Services:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: Contract provides for the annual financial audit of AbilityWorks, Inc.

Impartial Hearing Officers:

Number of agencies or programs: 3

Description: Contracts with individuals who serve as impartial hearing officers for the appeals process for VR/VRB clients.

Interagency Agreements:

Number of agencies or programs: 5

Description: Agreements with the (1) Department of Education for the coordination of transition services; (2) Hinds Community College for the Deaf Services Program; (3) Department of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council as federally mandated for advice and support; (4) Mississippi Project START (Success Through Assistive Rehabilitative Technology) for education awareness and access to Assistive Technology; and, (5) Division of Medicaid, Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Education, Department of Health and MS Families as Allies in accordance with Sections 43-14-1, 43-14-3, and 43-14-5 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 annotated, (as amended), which establishes an Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth (ICCCY) to implement a planning process for each child service agency to utilize Federal and State funds to coordinate services for children defined as eligible for services which are to be coordinated under this act. This memorandum of agreement is entered into by and among the parties as an amendment to establish, confirm, and set forth further mutual obligations and responsibilities in developing a coordinated interagency system of care for coordinating services to children and youth.

Mediator:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: Contract provides for a mediator between clients and MDRS during the appeals process.

Membership on Committees/Coalitions/Councils:

Number of agencies or programs: 13

Description: Agreements with agencies to have MDRS representation on the following: (1) MS Transportation Coalition; (2) MS Council on Developmental Disabilities; (3) Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, The National Employment Team (The NET); (4) Region IV Employment Partners Team; (5) State Deafblind Task Force; (6) Regional Deafblind Task Force; (7) MS Partnership in Employment; (8) Higher ED 4 All Council; (9) AFFINITY Group for Mental Health; (10) Transition Task Advisory Board; (11) Juvenile Justice Task Board; (12) Special Education Task Advisory Board; (13) MS Telephone Relay Board.

Subscriptions:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: Agreement for subscription to the National Newslines from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

Psychological Counseling Services:

Number of agencies or programs: 2

Description: Agreements provide for counseling services to VRB clients to help them adjust to recent blindness or other life stressors, an Employee Assistance Program, and drug testing.

Psychometric Review and Services:

Number of agencies or programs: 2

Description: Agreements provide for an individual to assist with psychometric testing and a psychologist to review the results and reports of VR staff psychometrists before sending to the referring counselor.

Support Services for Visually Impaired:

Number of agencies or programs: 2

Description: Agreements provide for readers and transportation for individuals who are visually impaired.

Interpreting Services:

Number of agencies or programs: 3

Description: Contracts provide for Interpreters for individuals who are deaf and for training workshops for Interpreters as well as individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing on relevant topics.

Support Services for Clients attending Mississippi State University:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: Contract provides for support services for VR clients attending Mississippi State University. Examples of services provided are: note takers, reader assistance, technical assistance, and tutor services. This number represents those agreements that were initiated during FFY09.

Supported Employment Extended Services:

Number of agencies or programs: over 500

Description: At the completion of a program of supported employment services, Extended Service Providers will provide extended services as necessary to assist a supported employment client in maintaining employment. At a minimum, Extended Service Providers will contact those clients twice per month. The type and degree of ongoing support services will vary on a case-by-case basis and will be continued indefinitely. Extended Service Providers will provide progress reports and any other reports pursuant to agreed upon time frames.

HIPAA MOU:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: This agreement states that MDRS will ensure payments entered into the accounting system comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and that the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), in turn, will comply with HIPAA in reporting MDRS accounting records. For example: DFA will not print social security numbers and medical information on payment records that can be viewed by the public or other agency personnel.

Media Campaign:

Number of agencies or programs: 2

Description: Provides for improved public awareness of disability to the general public, employers, and other stakeholders to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Research:

Number of agencies or programs: 1

Description: Provides for data collection, analysis and development of reports based on responses of consumers surveyed for input on need and delivery of services.

Referral Sources:

Number of agencies or programs: 2

Description: Provides a framework to facilitate the most effective and efficient process to help other community resource program participants gain access to vocational rehabilitation services available through MDRS.

MDRS has developed a relationship with the local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to gather information, build relationships, and develop cooperative efforts to provide services to Mississippians with a disability.

This attachment was developed after a review of the results of the Statewide Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs. Any pertinent findings from the Statewide Assessment were incorporated into this attachment. Additionally, members of the State Rehabilitation Council were involved in the development of this attachment.